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TAGS: MILI, UK, NATO, SOV

SUBJECT: MILITARY BALANCE, 1974-75 RELEASED

1. THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES TODAY RELEASED ITS LATEST ANNUAL ASSESSMENT, THE MILITARY BALANCE, 1974-75. IN ADDITION TO ITS USUAL ANALYTICAL AND STATISTICAL COMPARISONS OF BALANCES BETWEEN THE US AND THE USSR, NATO AND THE WARSAW PACT, THE MIDDLE EAST AND IN AFRICA, ASIA AND LATIN AMERICA, THIS YEAR'S NUMBER INCLUDES A THOUGHTFUL TREATMENT OF THE PROBLEMS OF COMPARING DEFENSE EXPENDITURES RELATIVE TO GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT.

2. THE INSTITUTE EMPHASIZES IN ITS PRESS RELEASE THE INCREASING NUMERICAL LEAD OF THE USSR IN STRATEGIC MISSILES AND THE STEADY EXPANSION OF ITS SSBN FLEET, CHRONICLES THE CURRENT AND PLANNED IMPROVEMENT OF US STRATEGIC FORCES, AND NOTES HOW LAST FALL'S ARAB-ISRAELI WAR POINTED UP TO THE DEPENDENCE OF BOTH SIDES ON THEIR SPONSORS

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AND THE LIMITATIONS OF THE SUPERPOWER RELATIONSHIP BUILT

UP IN OTHER AREAS. CAREFUL TREATMENT IS ALSO ACCORDED
THE CHINESE NUCLEAR BUILDUP AND CAPABILITIES/LIMITATIONS,
AS WELL AS THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE BUYERS' MARKET IN THE
PERSIAN GULF AREA.

3. INTERESTINGLY, THE ONLY FEATURE ARTICLE IN TODAY'S
BRITISH PRESS IS CARRIED BY THE GUARDIAN, WHICH FOCUSES
ON THE RELATIVE DEFENSE SPENDING OF EUROPEAN NATO COUNTRIES,
IN WHICH BRITAIN'S BURDEN IS EXCEEDED ONLY BY
PORTUGAL. THE GUARDIAN NOTES THAT BY ANY RELATIVE MEASURE,
BRITAIN PAYS SUBSTANTIALLY MORE THAN ITS FAIR SHARE
(SOME 70 PERCENT MORE RELATIVE TO GNP THAN FRANCE AND GERMANY
AND MORE THAN TWICE THAT OF BELGIUM AND DENMARK).
SUCH COMPARISONS ARE NOT LIKELY TO BE LOST ON MANY LABOR
SUPPORTERS WHO FAVOR DEEP CUTS IN DEFENSE SPENDING TO
BRING THE UK MORE INTO LINE WITH ITS CONTINENTAL ALLIES.

4. OTHER QUALITY DAILIES CARRY BRIEF ITEMS ON THE PUBLICATION
OF THE MILITARY BALANCE, 1974-75 WITH ONLY THE
TELEGRAPH JUXTAPOSING THE IISS'S REPORT OF INCREASING
CAPABILITY WITHIN SOVIET AND WARSAW PACT FORCES WITH THE
LABOR GOVERNMENT'S APPARENT DECISION TO MAKE MAJOR CUTS
IN BRITISH DEFENSE PROGRAMS.
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